

Wards 4 & 7 NPA- August 22, 2018
130 Gosse Court, Miller Center
Draft Minutes

Steering Committee member present: Jim Holway, Linda Deliduka,
Jeff Clark, Alex Farrell, James Loop, Eric Corbman, Matt Hurlburt, David Driscoll

Start:7:00pm

Introductions and Announcements

-Issue of leaving campaign signs up on public lands “longer than necessary”

Parks and Recreation

-John Adams, Parks & Recreation- 2 new “pause places” (miniature park/waystop) being built this fall, largest internal capital project. Finished before marathon and under budget

-Requests for pavilions at Leddy recognized, but currently working to fix old infrastructure before starting new projects

-Access on bike path will be open during construction

-Substantial storm water work will also be going on

-Design of last segment of bike path ongoing

-South end portion that starts at Queen City Park Road)

-Goes through Oakledge, project will end at Perkins

-Large grant going towards accessible playground in Oakledge

-Tennis courts at Appletree Park, going from 3 down to 2

-Built on wetland, which makes upkeep difficult

-Will build on higher elevation and allow old courts to become a natural area

-Lots of coordination with Bike Share- new signage at pause places will show current and future bike share stations

-Fitness stations are funded through UVM Med Center and branded as such (UVM Med Center Fitness Stations 1-6)

Responses:

-Will there be a conversation about where mountain biking is/is not permitted?

(Response: community meeting coming up as well as survey. Trail designer will come to meeting and take into account public opinion)

-Will e-bikes be allowed? (Response: have been allowed, under a certain speed limit. However, if community wants to have a discussion about e-bikes, there can be discussion at parks meeting.)

-Biking at Rock Point? (Response: absolutely none. Ecosystem is too fragile.)

-When will South shore be done? (Response: high concentration of endangered species.

Waiting for details from environmental survey done regarding limitations.)

Green Mountain Transit

--Rachel Kennedy, GMT- Next Gen Plan was originally an interim plan for next 5 years for improving service

-Held 40 different meetings with stakeholders, commuters, national consultant

-Looking for cost-neutral options to improve service in near future

-Objectives: making service more convenient, connecting people to activities, providing sustainable service

-Cost neutral improvements: improving schedule, changing service type to make it more convenient, improving public information

-Future expansion of GMT is local support and funding dependent

-Chittenden County: connecting different routes (i.e North End to Williston, Shelburne, or Essex.) Also looking at connecting Pine St to Winooski.

-20 minute bus service all day, instead of 15 minute service at peak times and 30 minutes at others.

-More weekday evening service (30-60 minute intervals instead of 70-80)

-Improving weekend service

-Better matched commuter hours with service hours (through surveys)

-Lots of improvements can be made within budget limits

-Looking to attract more riders in Chittenden County by expanding GMT routes

-Trying to not degrade rider experience, but some service will be moved from areas to new ones

-New plan (92 pages) offered on ridegmt.com

Responses:

-Does 20 minute service mean busses every 20 minutes? (Response: yes, on most routes.)

-Will LINK routes have 20 minute service? (Response: no, only local Chittenden routes will have the 20 minute service update.)

-Concerns from community members of New North End: many roads leading off New North end are not close to bus route stops. Will plan address long distances between large groups of people and new route? (Response: Unsure. Will check plan to see if this concern has been addressed.)

Cambrian Rise Updates

-Liberty House (formerly Burlington College) is fully occupied, 65 units

-Classroom building is currently owned by People's United Bank, closing on deal this fall

-70 units of senior housing will open

-Building by Champlain Housing Trust under construction

-Condominium building will hopefully start in first quarter of 2019

-Also mixed use buildings, apartments, condos, etc. Currently approved for 739 units, 90k sq ft of commercial space, plus hotel

-Will take 6-8 years

-Hoping to increase units from 739 up to 770. Burlington allows units by floor area ratio

-Under original plan, 512 apartments and 227 condos. Changing to reduce apartments to apartment to 400 and covert extras to condos.

-25% are inclusionary units being paid for by nonprofits (140~ total).

-In discussion with group that wants to build an "innovations commons". They will occupy a 60k sq ft business generator/accelerator/mentoring facility. Essentially for new companies that need funding or mentorship.

-Plans to create path from North Ave to bike path

Responses:

-How many people per unit? (Response: most condominiums are multi-person, most apartments are studio. Might be 1400-1500 people. Very few children expected. Apartment demographic is overall young.)

-How many units is hotel? (Response: around 50 rooms, all-suites hotel. No convention space.)

-Who are main investors behind this? Not a lot of public information around this. (Response: can't share individual names. All live locally. "Friends and family investors". Largest investors are City of Burlington, Champlain Housing Trust, etc

-Where does name come from? (Response: Cambrian period of the earth was when there was very robust growth, life on our planet morphed from single-cell organisms to complex cell organisms.)

Elected Officials:

-Dave Hartnett:

-November: bringing a bond to vote about wastewater center. Major problem in city with lake pollution. Council has made it a #1 priority.

-Highly supportive of bond for high school renovation. School is "tired, old". Unaccessible for those with special needs. BHS desperately needs bond for updates.

-Kurt Wright

-In agreement that BHS is in need of major renovations. Most people agree with this- but "big ticket" items such as this should be on ballot in March, not November.

-Not convinced that vote for BHS bond needs to be now.

-School board did not have answers for a number of questions proposed by Mayor.

-They will present on Sep. 27, hopefully will have more answers.

-"Number one issue" is wastewater.

-Carol Ode

-Hearing several issues voiced in community: mental health care system

-\$200,00 extra dollars in budget this year for supportive housing for mental illness- will take strain off E.R (where patients may not get appropriate care). Also 12 new beds added at Brattleboro Retreat

-\$4.3 mil dollars given for compensation of clinical mental health staff at Howard Center, similar agencies.

-\$500,00 to UVM for financial assistance for Vermont students pursuing healthcare careers.

-Lots of question about water quality: statewide, there are efforts being made for Lake Champlain. Beth Pearce recommended \$25 mil (funded from unused bond money) directed towards clean-up efforts. Widely believed that new taxes might be needed, or re-allocation of tax revenue as it exists.

-Retirees have concerns re: their savings. New laws in effect about 2018 taxes- if you make 65k or less in a year and file jointly (or 45k or less and file singly) you will not pay Vermont income tax.

-Also hearing concerns about middle class living costs, affordability of living in VT.

Meeting End: 9:00pm Minutes taken by Hannah Carpino, CEDO intern

